Anti-dumping duty by EU on Indian bed linen exports

1700. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has complained to the World Trade Organisation against the European Union for anti-dumping duty imposed on its bed linen exports;

(b) if so, whether any settlement/understanding has been offered by the European Union; and

(c) the latest position in regard to the dispute and the linen exports to E.U.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRMAN RANA): (a) to (c) India has entered into consultations with the European Commission (EC) pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governining the Settlement of Disputes, Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and Aticle 17 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 regarding imposition of anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton type bed-linen from India. However, the EC has not offered any settlement/understanding in the matter so far. During the year 1998, the exports of bed linen to the EU Member States amounted to 20,144 tonnes valued at Rs. 529.87 crores.

Import of Raw Silk by Indian Silk Industry

1701. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Silk Industry is importing raw silk on a very large scale;

(b) if so, figures of import of raw silk during last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for increase in the import of silk;

(d) whether Government propose to chalk out any programme for production of silk; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and when the programme will start working?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The facility of importing duty free raw silk is provided under the Duty Exemption Scheme to exporters. In addition, in October, 1998, the Government has permitted the import of mulberry raw silk under SIL with the condition that the CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods. The import of silk continues to be in the restricted list. The imports of raw silk during the last three years as indicated below has shown a declining trend:

Year	Quantity
1995-96	4149 Tonnes
1996-97	2911 Tonnes
1997-98	2760 Tonnes (Prov.)

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericultural project like World bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plant for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/collaboration with the States. In addition 36 catalytic developmental schemes have been approved by the Government for implementation during IXth Five Year Plan.

चीन से रॉ-सिल्क का आयात

1702. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने चीन से कच्चा सिल्क (रॉ-सिल्क) का आयात करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह सिल्क किस दर पर आयात किया जा रहा है; और हमारे देश में कच्चे रेशम (रॉ-सिल्क) का बाजार मूल्य क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि घरेलू कच्चे रेशम (रॉ-सिल्क) उत्पादकों ने इस आयात का विरोध किया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशी राम राणा): (क) से (घ); जी नहीं। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने चीन से अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने का निर्णय नहीं लिया है। विद्यमान नीति के अनुसार निर्यातकों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार ने शुल्क मुक्त योजना के अंतर्गत अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने की अनुमति दी है, जहां निर्यातकों को अपरिष्कृत रेशम को शुल्क मुक्त लाने की अनुमति है, जो कि निर्यात दायित्व से जुड़ी है। इसके अतिरिक्त, अक्तूबर, 1998 में विशेष आयात लाइसेंस (एस०आई०एल०) के अंतर्गत ग्रेड 2ए और उससे अधिक की शहतूती अपरिष्कृत रेशम का आयात करने की अनुमति देने का निर्णय इस शर्त पर लिया गया है कि अभ्यर्पित एस०आई०एल० का मूल्य आयातित मद के मूल्य से तिगुना होगा। उच्च ग्रेड के रेशम के आयात की अनुमति देने के निर्णय के विरूद्ध रेशम उपजकर्ताओं के विशेषकर कर्नाटक के एक वर्ग से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं क्योंकि वे ऐसा महसूस करते हैं कि इसका घरेलू रेशम की कीमतों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा। अभी तक ऐसा कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है। मंत्रालय स्थिति पर कडी निगरानी रखे हुए है।

Per Capita Availability of Cloth

1703. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the per capita availability of Cloth during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period, Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): The details of per capita availability of Cloth during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period are given below:-

Per Capita Availability of Cloth

Seventh Five Year Plan	(in Sq. mts.)
1985-86	21.55
1986-87	21.84
1987-88	20.96
1988-89	23.00
1989-90	22.65
Eighth Five Year Plan	
1992-93	24.50
1993-94	26.22
1994-95	25.98
1995-96	27.99
1996-97	29.30

Difficult situation faced by Silk Industry

1704. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the silk industry of the country is facing difficult situation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The silk industry of the country works in a situation where there is a demand and supply gap. The gap in demand, is mostly for powerloom warp quality mulberry silk and towards this end imports have been facilitated. In respect of the non-mulberry sector, except in Eri production, rearing in the case of tasar & muga silk is conducted out doors, in view of which there is instability in production. The difficulties that the silk industry is facing can be traced largely to the decentralised nature of the industry, inadequate quality seed and slow absorption of the technologies in respect of rearing and reeling due to the small actors who are largely dispersed. Quantity shortage in respect of raw silk and wide variation in quality are the concomitant difficulties.

(c) The Research and development institutes of the Central Silk Board have developed technologies to improve the quality of silk and increase the productivity through generation of superior technologies for food plant cultivation, silkworm rearing and in